

Wethersfield Advisory Parks and Recreation Board  
Harbor Management Commission  
Minutes - Thursday, April 23, 2015

The meeting was held at Town Hall and called to order by Chairperson Tom Ragonese at 7:00 p.m. Members present were Tom Ragonese, Bill Derech, Bill Leonard, and Richard Lepore. Also present were Mike Hurley, Town Council Liaison and Kathy Bagley, Director of Parks and Recreation.

A. Public Comments.

1. Leigh Stanton – Presentation on Grant's Way Foundation.

Chairperson Ragonese welcomed Mr. Leigh Stanton and members of the Grant's Way Foundation to the Board meeting. Members of the foundation present at this meeting were David Herold, David Herold Jr., Michael Sanzaro, Peter Brzezicki, Haley Stanton and Ron Hemmann. Mr. Stanton identified another foundation member, Mr. Lou Delmastro, who could not attend the meeting. Mr. Stanton explained that their foundation was set up to honor the memory of his son, Grant Stanton, who passed away recently. He was a lifelong resident and a member of the Men's Softball League. They have set up the foundation as a 501 3C. Their idea is to fund and build a footbridge between Fusco Field and Softball Field #2 in Mill Woods Park. They also requested that Softball Field #2 be named in honor of Grant Stanton. They had a PowerPoint presentation discussing these proposals. Their proposal includes signage and a bronze plaque at the entrance to Field #2 with some appropriate landscaping. Also they discussed the conceptual location for the footbridge. Chairperson Ragonese noted that this footbridge is included in the Mill Woods Master Plan and would be another way of funding an identified park improvement.

Mr. Stanton reported that the foundation started their fundraising last year with a softball tournament and is planning another tournament for the 2015 softball season and a fall golf tournament. Further discussion ensued with ideas for in kind services for the footbridge design and construction process. Chairperson Ragonese asked Ms. Bagley to provide an overview of the steps necessary for the approval of this project. Ms. Bagley explained that the first step begins with the approval of the Advisory Parks and Recreation Board. They would then send a recommendation to the Town Council soliciting their approval based on the conceptual plans for the project. If the Town Council approves the concept then the next steps are developing a design and reviewing it with the appropriate town staff and submitting it to the necessary town boards and commissions (Planning & Zoning, Inland Wetlands, etc.) for approval. Also a budget and fundraising plan would need to be developed. Board members discussed this project with the foundation members, will review their proposal and get back to them. Town Council liaison, Mike Hurley requested they send their PowerPoint presentation to Ms. Bagley so the board would have this information. Also, he will informally discuss the preliminary proposal with Council members at the next Council meeting. Chairperson Ragonese thanked Mr. Stanton and the members of Grant's Way Foundation for attending their meeting and for their willingness to consider funding an improvement to Mill Woods Park, especially one that had been identified in the Mill Woods Master Plan. The Board will discuss it at their meeting this evening and have Ms. Bagley get in touch with them if they need further information. Mr. Stanton thanked the board for their time and attention to their request.

B. Minutes – April 23, 2015.

Bill Leonard moved to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2015 meeting. The motion was seconded by Richard Lepore and approved unanimously.

C. Monthly Report –March 2015.

The Monthly Report was reviewed by board members. Chairperson Ragonese noted that High School graduation will be held at Cove Park again this year.

D. Letters and Announcements.

1. Arbor Day Celebration – April 25<sup>th</sup> at Emerson Williams School.  
Ms. Bagley explained that every year the Village Improvement Association funds a new tree for planting on town land.
2. Memorial Day Parade – May 23<sup>rd</sup> - starts at 9 am at Motor Vehicle Department.
3. Fireworks – cosponsored with Chamber of Commerce on May 30<sup>th</sup> at Cove Park (rain date is June 6<sup>th</sup>).  
Chairperson Ragonese explained that last year the fireworks were a good show and he was looking forward to this event. Ms. Bagley told board members that last year and this year the Chamber was funding the fireworks show and the town was providing the logistical support.

E. Old Business.

1. Status of Spring Fields.

Chairperson Ragonese explained that he attended a meeting with the Town Manager, Director of Physical Services, Parks and Recreation Director and representatives from the Little League organization to discuss their issues for the upcoming season. This meeting was a follow up to the board's meeting with the Little League representatives in February. This meeting went well and town staff gave an overview of field conditions and their spring preparation schedule for bringing the fields on line. Everyone is working to communicate better and meet the needs of Little League for their upcoming season. Currently all the high school fields are on line for school use and town staff are working at getting the rest of the fields ready.

Ms. Bagley reported that the George Ritchie Youth Soccer League had asked for permission to use the lights at Cottone Field for evening practices. This request was brought to the Planning and Zoning Commission to get further clarification on the previous approval for use of the lights. Planning and Zoning felt their previous approval covered this use, but requested that Parks and Recreation monitor the light use in case any problems developed. Chairperson Ragonese asked Ms. Bagley to invite soccer representatives to a board meeting to discuss their needs and any concerns. Ms. Bagley will follow up with the soccer representatives.

F. New Business.

1. Charter Revision Commission.

Chairperson Ragonese reported that the Charter Revision Commission did not change their recommendation to the Town Council regarding the Advisory Parks and Recreation Board. Their recommendation is to have the Park Board become a policy board not an advisory board (currently). Even though Chairperson Ragonese and Ms. Bagley attended their meeting again and provided comments on how the board and department work together. The Charter Commission members did not change their recommendation. The park board is not in favor of this change as stated in previous meetings and the next step is to go to the public hearing on the charter changes during a Town Council meeting.

2. Freedom of Information Act.

Ms. Bagley reported that if board members are interested, a workshop will be held on the Freedom of Information Act on Thursday, May 14, 2015 in Torrington, CT from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

3. Pool Pass Request.

Ms. Bagley asked for input from the Board members regarding a request that came in for adding an individual to a family pool pass. Currently, a family is allowed to add a caregiver to their pool pass. The request was that the family wanted to add the caregiver's child to the family pool pass too, because the caregiver was taking care of their own child too. Ms. Bagley suggested that the child should just be allowed to go to the pool, but pay the daily rate of \$1 for entry into the pool. This child should not be allowed on the family pool pass. Board members concurred.

4. Grant's Way Foundation.

Chairperson Ragonese asked Board members for their input on this project. Board members felt the foundation gave a good presentation on their project. Most of the foundation members live in town and Grant Stanton was a member of the community and active with many residents in town. Also, the footbridge was identified in the Mill Woods Master Plan and it would be another way of funding a park improvement. Board members would like to see a walking path to the footbridge on both sides included in the design and a time frame for accomplishing the project. Richard Lepore moved that the Advisory Parks and Recreation Board support the vision of Grant's Way Foundation in the construction of the footbridge as well as providing naming rights to Softball Field #2 in Mill Woods Park. The motion was seconded by Bill Leonard and passed unanimously.

G. Board Member Comments.

None.

H. Harbor Management Commission.

1. Cove Docks Project.

Ms. Bagley reported that Cove docks bid was awarded by the Town Council to EZ Dock Northeast. The Town is working on the contract with EZ Dock Northeast and will develop a timeline with them and the engineering firm, Ocean & Coastal. Mr. Leonard was familiar with this company and explained that they have done dock projects on the east coast.

2. Harbormaster Report.

Chairperson Ragonese reviewed the report with commission members. Chairperson Ragonese asked about the status of the agreement with the MDC regarding the loan of a boat for the harbormaster. Ms. Bagley reported that the town manager has sent them a proposed agreement and is waiting to hear back from them.

3. Glastonbury's Request for Slow-No Wake signs in Connecticut River.

Ms. Bagley informed the commission that the town manager signed the agreement with the Town of Glastonbury to allow the Slow-No Wake signs on the Wethersfield side of the Connecticut river and in his letter to Glastonbury noted that the commission would like to see an annual review of the sign locations. Chairperson Ragonese thanked Board members for their review of this request.

I. Motion to Adjourn.

Bill Leonard moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Motion was seconded by Richard Lepore and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Bagley, Director